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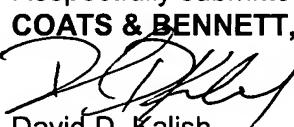
## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Haid )  
Serial No.: 10/644,681 )  
Filed: August 20, 2003 ) Group Art Unit: 3732  
Title: **Technique and Instrumentation for** ) Confirmation No.: 6452  
**Preparation of Vertebral Members** ) Status: Pending  
Attorney's Docket No: 4906-014 )  
Cary, North Carolina  
January 14, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Could you please advise us of the current status of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Name: Amy J. Martin

Date: January 14, 2005